

Aviation Shapes the History of TACAMO

TRAILING WIRE

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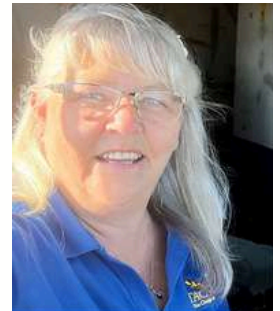


**LETTER FROM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MIKE VOS**



TCVA is thrilled to celebrate a significant milestone this month. We have awarded our first two scholarships, a testament to our commitment to our community and the education of our members' families. We are immensely proud to recognize Jacob Estes and Aubrey Russell III for their outstanding achievements in earning the William “Buff” Crowell and Vern & Colleen Lochausen Scholarships, respectively. Their success is a beacon of inspiration for all of us, and we look forward to more such inspiring stories next year. We encourage our members to consider donating to TCVA’s existing scholarships or even creating one of their own to continue TCVA’s support of our member’s children and grandchildren.

As most of you know, Cheryl Vos (my lovely bride and partner of 43 years) is TCVA’s “Reunion & Event Planner”. Lesser known is her role on TCVA’s Board of Directors as our Admin Vice President. This role has encompassed many other tasks, such as Newsletter Editor, Social Media Manager, Marketing, Fundraising, and Communications Coordinator. Cheryl and the Board of Directors would like to relieve Cheryl of some of her many tasks and find some new talent to take them over. Recently, we found a new Website Manager that’s giving our website a facelift and integrating our Membership program. Other tasks, like Newsletter Editor and Social Media Manager, would be a great opportunity for a budding journalist to hone their skills and bring a more modern approach to TCVA’s public persona. I invite those interested in volunteering to contact Cheryl at ‘tacamocommunity@gmail.com’.



On June 21, we commemorated “TACAMO Memorial Day.” We salute our shipmates who have left us with memories of their service and friendship. Let’s take a few moments to reflect on our shipmates fondly and try to live lives worthy of our surviving shipmates’ respect and admiration.

TCVA has established a new webpage dedicated to those “Lost in Service”. This page honors those TACAMO Sailors lost in service during flight operations or maintenance tasks. We invite you to visit the new webpage at <https://www.tacamo.org/lost-in-service>

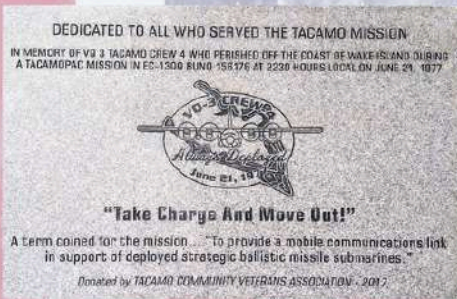
Stay strong and be safe,
Mike Vos

New Webpage
 **Lost in Service**

TACAMO Memorial Day

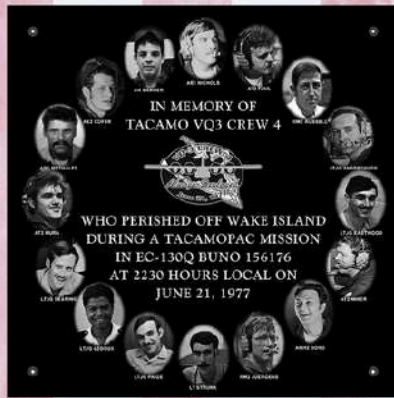


TACAMO Memorial Day June 21st



On this day, the TACAMO Community remembers all TACAMO Fallen sailors along with TACAMOPAC Crew 4 in Memoriam of TACAMOPAC Crew 4

VQ-3 TACAMO Crew 4 who perished off the coast of Wake Island during a TACAMOPAC Mission in EC-130Q BUNO 156176 at 2230 hours local time on JUNE 21, 1977



TACAMO Fallen

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| AFM Oschehurst
Al Anderson
Al Dowling
Al Paraita
Albert Durkworth
Albert Wilkerson
Alex Calder
Allen R. Staff
Alyre "Al" L. Jean
Anthony (Tony) Feliciano
Arnie Greenawald
Ben Micou
Ben North
Betsy Warren
Bill "Buff" Crowell
Bill Mize
Bill Toomey
Bill Weinhardt
Bob Downey
Bob Lucas
Bob Niederstadt
Bobby Miano
Bridgette Jacobson
Bruce Colby
Bruce Cunningham
Bruce Ernest Davidson
Bruce Hauenstein
Bruce Holden
Bruce L. Cloud
Bruce Nordwall
Carl Bravitt
Charles O. Gwin, Jr.
Charlie "Tom" Walton
Charlie Morr
Charlie Mueller
Charlie Quillen
Christopher Fagan
Chuck Fitchet
Chuck Harless
Chuck Osier
Claudy Alderson
Claude Blackwell
Cliff Greer
Conn Berkshire
Craig Leonard Mellies
Curt Selzer
Dale Baker
Dale Tusko
Dale VanRozenen
Dan Rubert
Daniel "Dan" Backner
Daniel "Danny" Larkin, III
Daniel Lange
Dave Allen
Dave Classon
Dave Dick
David Aaron Sumner
David Darkee
David Edwards
David Edwin Taylor, Jr.
David Hammond Fincannon
David Wright
Debra Robb Costello
Diare Kay Vanaman
Dick Buckner
Domingo Lind
Don Hansen
Don Sears
Donald Disharoon Sr.
Doug Klug
Douglas Mitchell
Dunton Wyatt, Jr.
Dwight Schuder
Dwight Lee Moyer
Earl Jones Jr.
Earl Solfenon
Ed Fisher
Ed Hansen
Eddie Leitch
Edward Flynn
Edwin Wunger
Edwin Munger, Jr.
Elias "Fred" Rafael Fernandez
Engelbert G. Pezzel
Eric Baluk
Eric Gordon
Ernie Noris
Franklin Forrester
Fred Nilhaus
Fritz Jones
Gareth Rich | Gary Lynn Baird
Michael Enley
George W. Wasko Jr.
George Weston
Glenn Coker
Gramps Hayslip
Grant Eric Hepner
Greg Georges
Gregory Spaulding
Gus Ulrich
Guy Payne
Harold Lee "Hal" Willard
Howard Wisinger
Howard "Tozy" Santz
Jack F Jones
Jack Kasalons
Jack MacMillen
Jack Sughree
Jack Thompson
Jake Ausec
James Amson
James B. Mulligan
James Clark
James E Maddox
James Franklin William
James Jordan
Jay F. McCormick
Jeff Erickson
Jeff Hughes
Jeff Hunter
Jeff Kinski
Jeffrey Paul Alcott Sr.
Jeffrey Plinckl
Jerry Johnson
Jerry L Barnes
Jerry Moore
Jerry Tuttle, U.S. Navy,
Vice Admiral (Retired)
Jeryl Brooks
Jim Bolin
Jim Downs
Jim Hastings
Jim Kingery
Jim Landy
Jim Leonard, Boeing Engineer
Jim Scott
Jim Tilton
Jim Vandersbos
Jimmy Kugler
Jody Griffin
Jon Bagby
Joe Fersych
Joe Mascaro
John "Toby" Rask
John "Maney" McKeen
John (Johnny) Francis McNamara
John Barlow
John Burton
John E. Moschell
John Fletcher
John G. Nuesmeyer
John Garretson
John Martin
John Ontko
John Kenneth Engle
Jon Kantza
Jon Shay
Joseph D'Amico Jr.
Joseph Paul Innis
Joseph Wojnarowshy Jr.
Ken Koehler
Ken Link
Ken Whitten
Kevin Wiley
Kim Brandon
Lance Atkins
Lance Marshall Scott
Lance Simons
Larry Gruff
Larry Johnson
Larry Wagar
Laurie Shagye
Leo "Dennis" Reed
LeRoy (Lee) Heintz
Lou Cochetto
Luther Bryant
Lyle Alan Tracy
Lytle Inman
Lynwood "Lyn" Zepik
Maria "Ton" Ramirez
Marshall Acite
Marvin "Smookey" Longstreet
Max Williams | Michael Cullina III
Michael Dittinger
Michael Thompson
Mike "Koster" Wetzel
Mike Besse
Mike Kenney Sr.
Mike Musser
Mike Roach
Mike Taylor
Norman James Waldo
Oren Gundry II
Pat Cannon
Pat McGintigan
Paul Markie
Perry Ogge
Phil Cortez
Ralph Durrant
Ralph Ward
Rance Durmire
Raymond "Jack" Reel
Raymond "Ray" Gabay
Rey Sanchez
Richard "Wheats" Wheatley
Richard Allen Mohler
Richard C. McIntyre
Richard Mathews
Rick Longoria
Robert "Bob" Brooks
Robert "Bob" Kotzinger, Jr.
Robert "Woody" Cole
Robert Boles
Robert Frost
Robert Lee Thomas, Jr.
Robert Morrisette
Robert Stanley Shasky
Robert Wozniak
Robert Zoak
Rocky Wreather
Roger Bradford
Roger Ringard
Robinson G. Parish
Ron Brown
Ron Collins
Ron Kego
Ron Schaefer "Cret"
Ron Woudley
Ronald "Mac" McDonald
Sandra Richardson
Scott Dickenson
Scott Fry
Scott How
Sonny Bidzkuwicz
Stephen Joseph Schuyler Sr.
Stephen Scott Pope
Stephen William Coy
Steve Thompson
Sue Palmer Elquist
Tarry N. Winger
Theodore "Jack" Jachens
Thomas G. Cooper
Thomas Holland
Tim Grace
Tim Keane
Todd Cox
Todd Latshaw "Bill"
Todd Masley
Tom Casp
Tom McClutch
Tom Ribenburgh
Tom Stout
Tony Johnson
Tony Martin Cheesebrow
Tracie John
Troy Woodbury
Ty Tyler
Vincent Ulrich
Vincent Corona
Wade Rowe
Walter Beatie
Walter E. Lyaght
Wayne Fraher
Wayne Leverage
Welton Yannayon
Wes Young
Whaylon Crago
Will Caskey
William Hildebrand
William "JR" Caldwell
William "Bill" Fromme
William Clark
William F Hess |
|--|---|--|



- TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductees
- TACAMOPAC CREW 4
 - Andrew Barker - 2012
 - Andrew Yaroshuck - 2012
 - Aubrey Russell - 2012
 - Bob Borel - 2012
 - Christie Micalle - 2012
 - Daniel Milner - 2012
 - David Cofer - 2012
 - Dennis Paige - 2012
 - Dennis Mira - 2012
 - Jeffrey LeDoux - 2012
 - Jack Strunk - 2012
 - James Paul - 2012
 - Mars Seating - 2012
 - Monte Nichols - 2012
 - Richard Eastwood - 2012
 - William Juergens - 2012
 - Bill "Horse" Harsanyi - 2012
 - Dave Buck - 2012
 - Don Lindeman - 2013
 - Ed Preston, CO VQ2 - Number One & Ironman ONE - Number One - 2018
 - Frank Baker Jr. - 2012
 - Gareth Reitz - 2012
 - Jack McKeown - 2012
 - Jay McCormick - 2015
 - John Kirov - 2012
 - Ken Gray - 2026
 - Mike Dinwall - 2018
 - Mike Kemp - 2016
 - Norm Tirdall - 2017
 - P.A. Moore - 2014
 - Paul Collins - 2013
 - Phil Miller - 2018
 - Rick Hill - 2012
 - Ron Carlson - 2018
 - Ross "Bossie" Coleman - 2013
 - Scott Fry - 2011
 - Shane Mansour - 2012
 - Stan Giant - 2016
 - Steve Hilde - 2016
 - Tom Klosterman - 2016
 - Walt Reese - 2012
 - Flaw very first VLF airborne transmitter flights in 1962
 - William "Buff" Crowell III - 2021
 - TSATCVA Founding Member

Fallen TACAMO Shipmates Link

[CLICK HERE](#)

On this day, we solemnly recognize "TACAMO Memorial Day."

The day that TACAMOPAC Crew 4, in their unwavering commitment, perished off Wake Island. These 16 fine men, embodying the true spirit of duty, honor, and country, gave 'that last measure of devotion'.

It coulda have been any of us. Many TACAMO sailors made take-offs like Broom 1-7 from runway 10 on Wake Island, whether from the Azores, Bermuda, or the Philippines. We all took that same risk for the protection of our country, culture, and way of life.

Finally, we have recognized in history not only Crew 4's sacrifice but also the dedication the TACAMO community has shown over the past 62-plus years to the defense of our nation. Let's all pause to honor the shipmates and friends who have 'departed the flight line' and left indelible marks on our lives. As mentors, proteges, and shipmates, we all contribute to the vibrant tapestry of the TACAMO community, each in our own unique way, and may we be remembered in the same way.

Safe travels and good health to all of those who have served the TACAMO community. It coulda been us ...

TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) Hall of Fame Standard Operating Procedures



Title: TCVA Hall of Fame Standardized Operating Procedures (SOP) – General Categories

Date of Release: 01 July 2024

Purpose: To establish standard operating procedures and schedules for the TCVA Hall of Fame (HoF) nominations, selection boards, formal announcement of inductees, and presentation.

Background: In the Summer of 2011, Commodore “Chocko” Baker, urged TCVA to create something to honor the best of the best in TACAMO. By a unanimous vote of the TCVA Board of Directors, the TACAMO Hall of Fame was instituted in 2012. Recognizing the outstanding and enduring people who helped develop, execute, and sustain the TACAMO mission was long overdue. The TCVA HoF nomination categories are TACAMO Sailor, Industry Partner, Government Support, or Community Service, called the general categories. The TCVA HoF also has specific categories for Lifetime Achievement and Lost in Service which are covered under separate operating procedures.

HoF Selection Requirements: To qualify as a HoF Inductee, nominees must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum 2 tours in TACAMO or six years of total service
- Contributed to the mission/aircraft/morale/good reputation of TACAMO
- Technical/professional/personal leadership - a mentor
- Performed a task or led an event that shaped the TACAMO mission
- Community service
- Generally recognized as deserving of this award

Announcement Schedule: TCVA will announce the new TACAMO Hall of Fame members during the July 4th weekend. At the discretion of the TCVA President, the announcement date may shift as needed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Formal Presentation: The TCVA will arrange a formal induction ceremony for each new member during the biannual reunion or virtually for those years with no reunion scheduled. If feasible, TCVA will attempt to have a local induction ceremony for each awardee during the off-year reunion cycle with virtual as a second option. Each awardee will be recognized on the TCVA via a presentation with photos and a page of accomplishments. Each awardee will also receive a TCVA HoF Award (trophy) not exceeding the dollar amount approved by TCVA BOD.

Induction Ceremony:

The formal induction ceremony for non-reunion year and reunion year awardees is held at the biannual reunion.



Dear TACAMO Survivors Association,

Your support of the 2012 TACAMO Reunion celebrating 50 years of airborne Very Low Frequency communications and 20 years of Strategic Communications Wing 1 were instrumental in the success of the event. When we first started discussing the idea to host the reunion onboard Tinker, it became obvious that we needed the support and resources of TSA to put together a memorable event, and you exceeded all expectations with outstanding participation and help across the board. Simply stated, the success of this reunion is directly attributable to your organization--and we are grateful.

There is still much work to do to appropriately recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of the TACAMO community, but believe we all left the reunion with a renewed sense of purpose to support and work towards a solution to share our history and the role of TACAMO in the defense of our Nation. We welcome the continued dialogue and cooperation to achieve these goals.

I am so very proud to be a part of this great community and I was humbled by the turnout and the great support. Amy and I have so many special memories of that weekend that it further solidifies our belief that we are a family. Again, thank you for all you have done in support of the 2012 TACAMO Reunion. We look forward to the next time we get together.



Very Respectfully,

**Chocko
(Commodore Baker)**

2012 Letter to TSA/TCVA



Congratulations to the 2024 TACAMO Hall of Fame



Please join TCVA in congratulating the 2024 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductees!

The presentation will be at the 2025 TACAMO Reunion in Marietta, GA, held November 7th to 11th, 2025.



Right: TACAMO Sailor Charles "Chocko" Baker



Left: TACAMO Sailor Ned Miller



Right: TACAMO Sailor – Government Civilian Support John Edmund Jordan

NEW

Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA)

The TCVA is in process of establishing a new Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) recognizing those TACAMO sailors who performed not only exemplary while on active duty, but also achieved far greater recognition for service to community and country throughout their lifetime. The LAA will be the pinnacle of all TCVA awards and will be awarded to only the most deserving individuals. Government employees, supporting contractors and civilians who have greatly impacted the TACAMO Program will also be eligible.

More information coming soon!



2020 Hall of Fame Award in the Hands of Inductee



Sometimes emergency arise and a Hall of Fame Inductees can't make it to the ceremony for the presentation. TCVA finds ways to connect with the inductee to present them with their award.

Bud Biddle, a 2020 Hall of Fame Inductee, was unable to attend the reunion due to the loss of a family member and a medical condition. In March 2024, Bud and Vern Lochausen connected, and Bud received his award.

Vern reported: Bud was VQ4, VQ3, and Wing, all MOs. I hired him into Boeing to run our F-5 Maint at Fallon. In March, he moved on up to Site Manager for the 14s, 16s, 18s, and 60s.

Photo of Bud with his 2020 Hall of Fame Award by Vern Lochausen



TACAMO Hall of Fame – 2020 Bud Biddle – TACAMO Sailor

Service

- VQ4 - Late 70s/early 80s
- VQ-3 – Late 80s to 91
- STRATCOMWING ONE Maintenance Officer (1991 - retirement)
- Rockwell Collins Field Service Team – '95 -2000

Contributions

- Established an effective Naval aviation maintenance department at a newly established home port location
- Liaison between the wing, squadrons, contractor logistics, and the Air Force.
- Formed a network of working relationships that resulted in an efficient maintenance operation across the Fleet

Leadership (Key Jobs)

- VQ-4 Aircraft Division Officer and Maintenance Control during high OPTEMPO ops
- VQ-3 Assistant Maintenance Officer during Herc to Merc transition and homeport change
- Wing's first Maintenance Officer at standup at Tinker and creation of structure supporting squadrons
 - Provisioned for Field Service Reps imbedded with squadrons, immediate assistance for Fleet needs
 - Blended squadron support such as I level and sourced support from Tinker AFB and ALC
 - Co-creator of Enhanced Phased Maintenance program, reducing out of service for depot work
 - Mobile maintenance team initial organizer and director
 - Directed team to strip, reconfigure, and create static display of TACAMO EC-130Q beside Wing
- Overall pioneer of an effective/efficient lasting TACAMO maintenance operation at Tinker AFB

Community Service

- Member of Military Officers Association,
- Contributor to Rochester NY Food Link, other charities

Peer recognition

- Fleet and NAVAIR leaders and Chiefs Community



TACAMO Scholarships



In 1997 at a meeting in Pax River, MD a group of TACAMO Veterans came together as founding members of TSA/TCVA. At the meeting, Barry Coyle volunteered as the Scholarship Chairperson. For years, Mike Vos researched and pushed for scholarships. This year, 27 years after that 1997 meeting, TCVA celebrates awarding scholarships to two recipients. The following is an email Mike sent to Barry to celebrate their accomplishment.

Brah Barry,

Well, our discussion in 1997 about scholarships has come to fruition. TCVA has sent notifications to two applicants that they will be receiving \$1000 towards their tuition.

One recipient is the son of an active duty Senior Chief, who is studying to be an ER nurse at the University of Indianapolis and the other is the grandson of Crew 4's ACS, Aubrey Russell who will be studying forensics at the University of West Virginia.

I thought you should be among the first to know, as this was a goal we shared so many years ago. Direct support for the families of our TACAMO community. Now, we need to keep this program "survivable". We have a good start ...

I hope things are going well for you. Mahalo for the leadership you've shown our community.

*Aloha,
Mike*

TACAMO SCHOLARSHIPS

Detailed information and how to start a scholarship fund, can be found at tacamo.org/scholarships



Applications

Form Link: <https://shorturl.at/Eua7p>

Deadlines:

- Accepted June 1st to January 31st
- Closed February 1st
- Selection Time Frame February to April 30
- Scholarship Announcement in May



William "Buff" Crowell
III Scholarship Fund

[Click here for More Information - LINK](#)

Donate to Buff Crowell's Scholarship Fund

DONATE ❤️



Start a Scholarship
Fund in Your Name

Mission Statement: The TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) will award annual scholarships to students in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) related curriculum or technical certification (example: HVAC, Automotive Technician, Sous Chef, etc.).

Eligibility, Ineligibility, Selection Committee, Awards and amounts, Sponsored Awards, and Scholarship Fund can be found at

<https://www.tacamo.org/scholarships>



Excellence in
Technology & Arts
scholarship dedicated to
Vern and Colleen
Lochausen

[Click here for More Information - LINK](#)

Donate to the Lochausen's Scholarship Fund

DONATE ❤️

Congratulations to the 2024 Scholarship Recipients

MEET OUR \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



William "Buff" Crowell II
Scholarship

Vern and Colleen Lochausen
Technology & Arts Scholarship



Jacob Allen Estes

Aubrey Dean Russell III

**University of Indianapolis
BSN (Nursing RN)
Son of David Estes ATCS (Ret)**

**West Virginia University
BS in Forensic Science
Grandson of TACAMOPAC Crew 4
Crewmember, Aubrey D Russell Sr.**

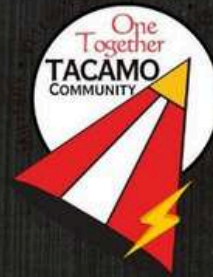
TCVA awards the William "Buff" Crowell Scholarship to Jacob Allen Estes, Son of David Estes ATCS (Ret) Photo below: Tony Barnes, Jacob Allen Estes & Jim Meppelink

TCVA awards the Vern and Colleen Lochausen Technology & Arts Scholarship to Aubrey Russell III, Grandson of TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Crewmember, Chief Aubrey D Russell Sr. Photo below: Vern Lochausen, Aubrey Russell III & Mike Vos





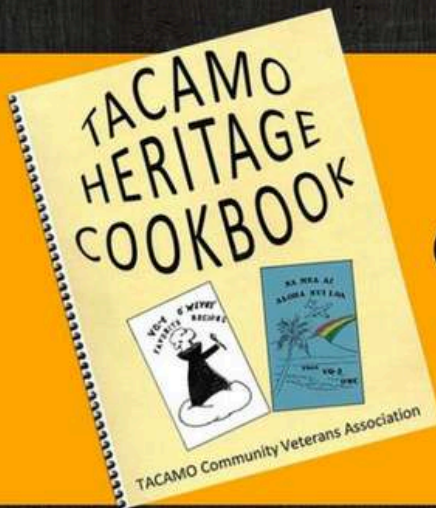
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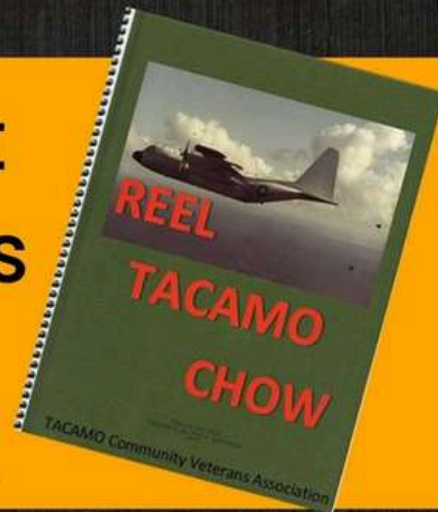


DINER MENU



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Includes shipping when ordered online



VQ-4

- Hor D' Oeuvers
- Teas
- Meats
- Vegetables
- Desserts

VQ-3

- Appetizers
- Soups & Salads
- Sea Food & Poultry
- Casseroles
- Beverages

Family

- Guam Recipes
- Hawaii Recipes
- Pax River Recipes
- OKC Recipes

Reel Operators

- ACO Airborne Waffles
- 3-Bean Bake & RO Beans
- PLE Meatloaf
- History Pictures Galore

Sea Stories

- Cookbook History
- Day in the Life of an RO
- General Ensley's Staff Car
- The Legend of "Hoof"
- Doggy ROs



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TACAMO.ORG

Women Take Charge At Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control And Communications Program Office, Continuing Proud TACAMO Tradition

by Vern Lochausen posted in NAVAIR News



Nora Tyson, a TACAMO community trailblazer, achieved unique milestones in her Navy career, particularly in a historical context. She was the first two-star woman to command a Carrier Strike Group, Carrier Strike Group 2, embarked with the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). In 2015, she made history by becoming the first woman to command a United States Navy ship fleet, the Third Fleet. Watercolor painting of then Rear Admiral Nora Tyson, U.S. Navy photo, courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – Women are taking charge at the program office that supports the Navy's Take Charge and Move Out mission. The Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) in August 2023 welcomed Jaimie Grubb as the first woman to serve as principal deputy program manager. In that role, she leads the program office as the second-in-command under the program manager.

Half of the program's leadership, including assistant program managers and functionals, are women. They include Grubb and Carin Tullos, who joined PMA-271 in February as the first woman deputy program manager for the E-XX side of the program. E-XX is the Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) Recapitalization Program that is fielding the next generation of aircraft to fly the TACAMO mission.

Women also lead PMA-271's Air Vehicle, Acquisition, Security, Mission Systems, and Cybersecurity teams, to name a few. They continue a proud tradition of service celebrated each March during Women's History Month. The Navy's theme this year is "Women Who Have Made Great Achievements". It celebrates the approximately 160,000 women serving the Navy today in active duty, reserve, and civilian positions.

"The [Department of the Navy] is strengthened by the courageous women who have shared their stories and paved the way for future generations," wrote Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro in a Feb. 22 memorandum honoring



Jaimie Grubb, the first woman to serve as principal deputy program manager of the Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-21). (U.S. Navy photo) Jaimie Grubb, the first woman to serve as principal deputy program manager of the Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-21). (U.S. Navy photo)



Carin Tullos, the first woman to serve as deputy program manager for the Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) Recapitalization Program (E-XX), developing the aircraft that will replace the E-6B Mercury for the TACAMO mission. E-XX is part of the Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271). (U.S. Navy courtesy photo)

Women's History Month. "It is with my sincerest gratitude that we recognize the Sailors, Marines, and civilians who have shattered glass ceilings and remain committed to achieving gender equity."

Throughout the years, the TACAMO community has been a leader in the inclusion and promotion of women, said Vern Lochausen, a retired TACAMO commodore who now serves as a consultant for PMA-271. The TACAMO mission connects the president and secretary of defense with naval ballistic missile forces during times of crisis via the E-6B Mercury, a communications relay and strategic command post aircraft. PMA-271 maintains the E-6B and is developing its replacement for the TACAMO mission, the E-XX.

As far back as 1989, women made up roughly one-fourth of the operational squadrons that fly the TACAMO mission, according to an April 1989 article in Proceedings magazine. They helped pave the way for women in other aviation communities and advocated for women to be allowed to serve in combat.



Brooke Desrochers' change of command on May 5, 2022, when she became commanding officer of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. After over 20 years of active-duty Navy service, Desrochers retired as a naval flight officer and now supports the Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) as a senior integration program analyst. She continues a legacy of women leadership in the Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) community honored during Women's History Month. (Photo courtesy of Hownikan)

Among them were the first women TACAMO squadron pilots, Lt. Janeen Igou and Lt. Sue Harter. Igou went on to become the first woman to command a flight training squadron.

Over 40% of the women who commanded TACAMO aviation squadrons went on to become admirals. They include Vice Adm. Nora Tyson, the first woman to command a carrier strike group and the first to serve as 3rd Fleet commander; Rear Adm. Margaret "Peg" Klein, the first woman commandant of midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy; and Vice Adm. Robin Braun, the first woman to command the U.S. Navy Reserve. Today that tradition is carried on by the women still supporting the TACAMO mission.

Brooke Desrochers is a retired TACAMO naval flight officer who said she was inspired by the TACAMO women who came before her. She now supports PMA-271 as a senior integration program analyst working with the TACAMO Mission Aircraft Transition Team developing the new E-XX aircraft. She served over 20 years on active duty, including a year as commanding officer of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 (VQ-4).

"TACAMO was one of the first communities that women were eligible to serve in as the Department of Defense integrated women into their ranks. Accordingly, our community was buoyed up by a bow wave of female representation," said Desrochers. "It was so encouraging to me as a junior officer to see the high number of female flag officers who started their

Women Take Charge: Continued on page 11

Women Take Charge

Continued from page 10



careers in Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadrons 3 and 4, and I have personally benefited from the mentorship of our most recent greats, Rear Adm. “Peg” Klein and Capt. Heather Cole.”

Tullos served 20 years on Navy active duty, including multiple TACAMO tours. She continued serving the community after retirement as part of the PMA-271 Aircraft Systems Team from 2012-2017. She returned this year after a stint as Cost Transformation Lead for the Naval Sustainment System-Aviation.

Now she’ll help shape the future of the TACAMO mission as she leads the E-XX Team as one of two deputy program managers.

“TACAMO is a family and I have a vested interest in its future,” said Tullos. “It’s a humbling experience to be able to work with such an incredible team and be involved in such an exciting time. It’s also a daunting experience because I want to ensure that we get the right solution for the warfighter.”

Desrochers echoed that sentiment in explaining her decision to come to PMA-271 post-retirement.



Cmdr. Rebecca Anderson, the military assistant program manager for logistics at Naval Air Systems Command’s Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271).

“The TACAMO mission is so incredibly unique with the Naval Aviation Enterprise. I have always been proud to be a part of the small number of people who fly and operate the E-6B,” said Desrochers. “The opportunity to work for PMA-271 was a fantastic chance to experience another side of TACAMO and continue contributing to the overall success of the nuclear command and control and strategic deterrence mission.”

One of her goals while in command was to inspire other women.

“I spend a lot of time talking to aspiring pilots and naval flight officers on how they might be able to balance a career and a family,” said Desrochers in a 2023 interview with “Why I Fly” on YouTube. “I absolutely believe that representation matters. If I show them that I’m sitting here in this seat and I am successful in the Navy, then they know that it’s possible for them as well.”

Tullos shared her advice for women following in her footsteps.

“I think that it’s important to understand what your goals are and what you and your family may have to sacrifice to achieve those goals. I was definitely blessed to have a family, a church family and a community that stood behind me,” said Tullos. “Remember that family comes first. They will be there after your naval career is over.”

Grubb has over 20 years of experience at Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), where she most recently served as the integrated product team lead for the MQ-25 Stingray program. She also worked in the H-53 Heavy Lift Helicopters Program (PMA-261), where she contributed to the successful completion of the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation for the new CH-53K King Stallion.

“Until recently, I wasn’t aware that I was the first woman principal deputy program manager for PMA-271. It’s an honor being the first selected based on what I can bring to the program,” said Grubb. “Women have done and continue to do amazing things in the Navy, from leading squadrons to solving engineering challenges to leading the entire Navy. I’m proud to be one small piece of that history.”

Grubb said she hasn’t faced any unique obstacles as a woman working for the Navy.

“I can’t think of a single time at NAVAIR when I have experienced challenges because I am a woman,” said Grubb. “I have always been treated fairly and recognized for my contribution.”

Creating an inclusive environment takes everyone, said Desrochers.

“For the first wave of ladies integrating into our community, and for the brand new female pilot in the wardroom today, leadership is essential to establishing and maintaining an inclusive climate,” said Desrochers. “Male allyship and command leaders are critical to ensuring that the latest generation of TACAMO females are supported and have the same opportunity to achieve the proud heights that some of our community’s brightest stars did.”

The mission of PMA-271 is to deliver and support survivable, reliable and durable airborne command, control, and communications for the president, secretary of defense, and U.S. Strategic Command. The program’s vision is to provide national security and deterrence through assured airborne strategic communications.

PMA-271 consultant Vern Lochausen contributed to this report



Carrier Strike Group Two - March 6 ✨ Women Wednesday ✨!

Breaking Barriers and Making Waves 🌊: This week, we’re pressing pause on our Wake Wednesday to honor someone who made waves in a different way.

We’re commencing our celebration of Women’s History Month by honoring retired-Vice Admiral Nora Tyson, who commanded Carrier Strike Group 2 ⚡ from 2010-2012. She was the first woman to command a carrier strike group, and we are honored to serve under her legacy. Thank you, Vice Admiral Tyson and all the women who continue to pave the way to greatness for the naval services!

Two TACAMO Women Veterans Join U.S. Naval Institute Discussion Panel



Video Link:
[youtube.com/watch?v=VY03z2_9Uyo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VY03z2_9Uyo)

CLICK HERE



TACAMO Wife Seeks Women Veterans to share TACAMO History

My name is Karen McIntyre. My husband, Lewis McIntyre, wrote the book *Take Charge and Move Out: The Founding Fathers of TACAMO*. I am undertaking the task of writing about the women of TACAMO. Since the early 80's, women have played an integral part in TACAMO, and their stories need to be heard.

My plan is to write briefly about the history of women in the Navy and specifically in naval aviation and TACAMO. Then I am planning two sections of the book in which the women of TACAMO tell their own stories. One section for the officers, and one for the enlisted.

Women of TACAMO, officers and enlisted alike, here's where I need your help. If you would like to be a part of this project, to have your story included in a book about the women of TACAMO, please contact me via email and I will send you several questions to get you started.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Karen D. McIntyre
pumamamd@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/KarenDMcIntyreAuthor/>



In April, the U.S. Naval Institute hosted a rich discussion of women's past and present contributions to the U.S. Navy. Inspired by the recent publication of the Naval Institute Press book, *From Yeomanettes to Fighter Jets: A Century of Women in the U.S. Navy*, by Randy C. Goguen, a retired Navy Commander. The discussion Moderator, Taylor Baldwin Kiland lead a panel of distinguished female naval officers: Randy C. Goguen, a retired Navy Commander, Rear Admiral Margaret "Peg" Klein, USN (Ret.) and Matice Wright-Springer.



Matice Wright-Springer



Rear Admiral Margaret "Peg" Klein, USN (Ret.)

Matice Wright-Springer is a senior vice president in Booz Allen's aerospace business. Her current areas of focus include the Joint All-Domain Command and Control Advanced Battle Management System; next-generation data solutions and analytics; organizational redesign; and digital transformation. Matice began her career in 1988, serving as the nation's first African-American, female naval flight officer. She logged thousands of flight hours in both the EC-130 and the E-6 aircraft.

After serving in the Navy, she was presidentially appointed to serve as a White House fellow at the Department of Treasury. She returned to government service a few years later as a member of the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Defense.

Springer's private sector experience includes work as a defense analyst on large information technology programs with General Dynamics, a foreign military sales helicopter manager with Lockheed Martin, a senior strategist with L3 Harris, and as a technical director with ManTech International Corporation.

Springer earned a B.S. in physical sciences and general engineering from the United States Naval Academy. She holds an M.P.A. from Harvard University and an M.B.A. with a finance concentration from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the United States Naval Academy's Alumni Association's Board of Trustees and is a member of the Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award selection panel.

Rear Admiral Margaret "Peg" Klein, USN (Ret.) graduated from the Naval Academy with the second class of women, served for 36 years as a Naval Flight Officer, was the first woman to serve as the Commandant of Midshipmen and completed her career as Senior Advisor for Military Professionalism on the staff of the Secretary of Defense.

Her Navy service career includes being the first woman Chief of Staff, Commander, Carrier Strike Group EIGHT. She was Deputy and Commodore, Strategic Communications Wing ONE, TF-124.

Klein served in the White House Military Office, as a legislative fellow for former Senator Olympia Snowe, as a Squadron and Wing Commander, and as an Expeditionary Strike Group and Task Force Commander. In 2011, she became the Chief of Staff for U.S. Cyber Command after serving as the Operations Director for the Navy Network Warfare Command.

In 2014, she took on the role of the Secretary of Defense's Senior Advisor for Military Professionalism. RADM Klein worked with the Vice Chiefs and Service Under Secretaries to identify and share best practices in ethics, leadership development, and values-based decision-making across all branches of service.

After retirement, she served as the Dean, College of Leadership and Ethics, Naval War College, and is on the Board of Directors for the U.S. Naval Institute and the New England Center and Home for Veterans. She chairs the Board for the USNA Women's Shared Interest Group, chaired the board of Notre Dame was a USNA Athletic and Scholarship Program trustee, and Naval Academy Leadership Conference keynote speaker.



Dave Barnes Story Another TACAMO Sunrise

By Vern Lochausen
TCVA President Emeritus and Historian



In February of this year, TACAMO made history again. The results of the Admiral Selection Board included a Reservist, a male Naval Flight Officer. He is what I call 'a one tour wonder'. He even recalled the days in the late 90s when he flew with me and shared 'you always seemed so busy.'

Dave Barnes served in VQ-3 during the late E-6A and early E-6B Looking Glass era. His Skippers were Todd Tracy, Bill Oko, and Sue Davies. His department heads were Dave Kiehl, Shep, and Tim Pedersen. He made a very positive impression on all of them and as CO's do, Sue paved the way for him to get into Test Pilot School or Navy Post Graduate School. But he wanted to get to San Diego and she worked a spot for him at NAMTRAGRU there. Dave's grandfather was a Pan American Airways pilot. Dave, like myself, was awarded the "NAMI Whammy" when he first showed up in Pensacola for Aviation Indoc. Naval Aerospace Medical Institute screened everyone for flight suitability. Dave and I arrived as Student Naval Aviators but were judged 'soon to be too blind' and given the chance for NFO training. I moved on and loved my career. Dave stuck to his dream.

As a Navy North Island Flying Club instructor, teaching mostly Sailors from the base and surrounding area, Dave accumulated hours and experience for the airlines. He earned most of his tickets flying out of Norman, OK, walking away from his VQ-3 tour with a multi-engine/commercial FAA ticket. Dave was hired by Continental Express in 2001 and had his final oral exam for the job on 9-11-2001. He returned to instructing at North Island and Navy Reserve duty. After a short gig with a peer flying pax in West Africa, he finally got on with the Delta-owned COMAIR. With help from a TACAMO squadron mate, Dave was eventually hired by Continental Airlines, and later United after those two merged. Dave achieved his dream of flying for the airlines.

The story doesn't end there. Dave's Naval Reserve story is even more complex and unique. He worked for several Navy Seal Commanders. He built a family services program for them, to help 'warriors to be good husbands and fathers.' He also ran advanced training for Seals and BUDS. Later he was Det Commander for UAV operations in the Middle East where his command was a Navy 'tenant' on an Air Force base. Dave served with our current CNO Admiral Franchetti when he was assigned to 6th Fleet Reserve Component in Italy. Additional tours in O-6 command slots were with USINDOPACOM, NAVWAR San Diego, and Readiness Command Fort Worth as Deputy Commander.

Like TACAMO's other admirals, both Reserve and Regular Navy, Dave served the Blue Water Navy and EXCELLED. In our last conversation, one that Shep set up for us, Dave was looking forward to a run from LAX to Australia in the right seat of a 787. Dave Barnes....living the dream of yet another TACAMO Sunrise only from a 787 Down Under.



SAN DIEGO, CA, UNITED STATES
Naval Information Warfare Systems Command
(NAVWAR).

SAN DIEGO (Feb. 24, 2023) Rear Adm. Doug Small, Commander, Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR), left, reads Legion of Merit award citation for Capt. David Barnes during the NAVWAR Reserve Program (NWRP) change of command ceremony. During the ceremony, Capt. Frank Bantell relieved Capt. David Barnes as the NWRP commanding officer.
(U.S. Navy photo (left) by Ramon Go)



CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

IT'S IN THE CREED

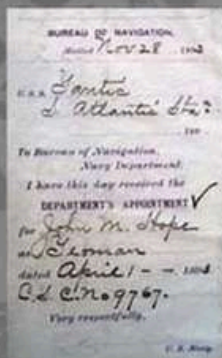


DECKPLATE LEADERS

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS MAKE UP THE HIGHEST ENLISTED RANKS IN THE U.S. NAVY. KNOWN AS "DECKPLATE LEADERS" CHIEFS ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN OFFICERS AND JUNIOR ENLISTED.

APRIL 1, 1893

DATE PROCLAIMED BY NAVY CIRCULAR #1 (EARLY NAVADMIN MESSAGE) THAT CREATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RANK.



55

NUMBER OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS THAT HAVE EARNED THE MEDAL OF HONOR.



DECKPLATES TO KEELS

CHIEFS ARE SO VITAL TO THE NAVY THAT TWO SHIPS HAVE BEEN NAMED USS CHIEF (BOTH MINESWEEPERS).



OLDEST RATINGS

SINCE 1797, ONLY TWO RATINGS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INCLUDED CHIEFS AMONG THEIR RANKS: BOATSWAIN'S MATE AND GUNNER'S MATE.

GOATLOCKER

FROM THE AGE OF SAIL TO STEAM, GOATS WERE KEPT ABOARD SHIPS IN SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS KNOWN AS "GOAT LOCKERS." STUBBORN, SURE-FOOTED AND TOUGH, GOATS WERE USED FOR THEIR FRESH MILK AND MEAT - THEY ALSO HELPED LIFT UP MORALE. GOAT LOCKERS WERE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY CHIEFS WHO KEPT THE NAME AND ADOPTED THE GOAT MONIKER.



FIRST FEMALE CHIEF

ON MARCH 21, 1917, LORETTA WALSH BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WHEN SWORN IN AS A CHIEF YEOMAN.

FOULED ANCHOR

THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CAP DEVICE WAS AUTHORIZED IN 1897. CPO COLLAR DEVICES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1959.

ROCKER DEVICE

THE ADVENT OF A ROCKER DEVICE WAS THE FIRST INSIGNIA FOR CHIEFS TO WEAR, AND WAS ORIGINALLY BORROWED FROM THE MASTER-AT-ARMS RATING. IT BECAME OFFICIAL IN 1894.



CREED

THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE CPO CREED WAS WRITTEN IN THE LATE 1940S. READING THE CREED BECAME A FIXTURE IN THE TRANSITION OF A FIRST CLASS TO THE VISIBLE. CONFIDENTLY HUMBLE DECKPLATE LEADERS CHIEFS STRIVE TO BE.

Active Duty



Annual Battle of Midway Commemorative Family Picnic

Sailors assigned to Strategic Communications Wing One, VQ-4 Shadows, and VQ-3 Ironman Squadrons partnered with community partners, Tinker Federal Credit Union, City of Midwest City, Government Midwest City Chamber of Commerce, Navy League of the United States OKC Navy League, Collins Aerospace, and Rose State College for the 2nd Annual Battle of Midway Commemorative Family Picnic at Joe B. Barnes Park, June 6, 2024.



Above: TACAMO Sailors pose for a group photo with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea, with the TACAMO Chief's Mess bringing up the rear.

**Any day TACAMO chiefs are
on the grill is a good day!
Hooyah Navy!!!**



Notes on Nuclear War: In The Beginning



By James Youngblood, TACAMO active duty member & TCVA historian assistant (*Pictured below*)

I have spent the last few months watching the world around us and reflecting on how it is we came to this moment. The headlines of today read like the Cold War saber-rattling that my father lived through. As the days tick forward I cannot help but wonder what course of events fell into place to bring us here. That thought has inspired me to write this series of articles. It is my hope that this journey through history will serve to educate all of us on the key events that have impacted us, and the world, so much.

Now, for this, the inaugural editorial it only seems right to start at the beginning of the nuclear story. Unfortunately, the beginning is far more difficult to pin down than I originally expected. So many choices by so many people lead to the Nuclear Age, where is it do we begin? Some likely origins would be the German physicists that discovered fusion with a pile of uranium in the 1930s or maybe the success of Dr. Oppenheimer in Los Alamos with the successful test of his "Gadget". While these are logical origins to the current state of our situation locked in a Mexican standoff of global destruction, it is my humble opinion that these were just unrealized theories and concepts. I assert to you that the true beginning, the moment that reshaped our world for generations was on the 24th of July, 1945. It was on this date that one man made the solemn decision, armed with the best information he had, to use the earth-shaking weapon for the first time. The man was President Harry Truman. He had just a few months earlier learned of the devastating weapon. Why, you may wonder, would he have made the choice to drop a bomb the likes of which the world had never seen? Well, once again, that answer is not as clear as we would like. On one hand, he had just been briefed on the plan that was Operation Olympus, the mainland invasion of Japan. The early projections showed one million Allied and as many as ten million Japanese casualties, a steep toll to end the war. On the other hand, he was witnessing the Soviet Union begin to aggressively pursue land and influence. If allowed to pursue their goals undeterred, he rightfully predicted them as the enemy sooner rather than later. So, with these thoughts on the front of his mind, when leaving the Potsdam Conference, the President gave to order to drop "Fat Man" and "Little Boy" on military targets on the main island of Japan. In doing so, he sacrificed thousands to save tens of millions. His decision forced the Empire of Japan to the peace table and showed the Soviets the awesome might of American technology. On July 24th, he set the stage for all future geopolitical chaos yet to come.

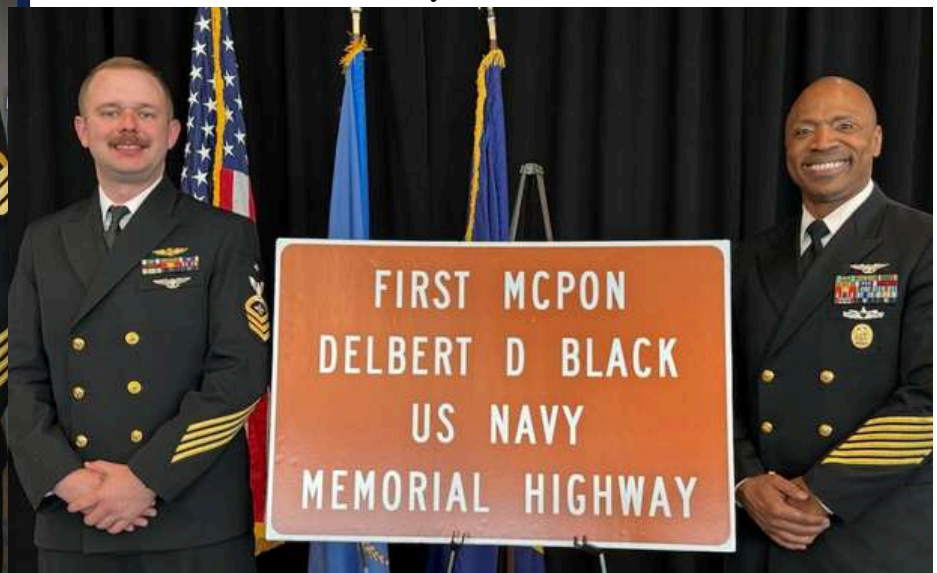
Growing up, my father would often say, "Son, the man you grow into will be the sum of your decisions." It took many years and a lot of decisions, good and bad, to figure out what those words meant. His words rang true both in my life personally and on the world stage. The state of our world is a result of the decisions made and not made over the past decades. President Truman simply tipped the first domino in a chain that is still toppling to this day. It is my hope that "Notes on Nuclear War" will help to bring us together to learn about the past decisions that affected our lives. The decisions and people that gave us a purpose in the Navy. And it is my sincere hope that we can use the lessons of our past to steer the decisions of the now and tomorrow to bring us closer to peace and prevent us from destroying ourselves. Thank you for your time and I look forward to our future together.

Dedication of a section of I-35 in Oklahoma to first MCPON



Shared by James Youngblood, TACAMO active duty member & TCVA historian assistant

Great opportunity to attend the dedication of a section of I-35 in Oklahoma to the first MCPON, GMCM Del Black. Also got to meet the current MCPON! Great day to be a Red Dirt CPO!



Looking Glass (SAC ABNCP) & PACCS



Post on [Looking Glass \(SAC ABNCP\) and PACCS](#) Facebook Page
Contributor [Richard Hutchins](#) Redhome Aviation

With the reception of the first E-6A by the U.S. Navy in 1991, plans were enacted to begin moving Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 4 "Shadows" and Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron VQ-3, "Ironmen" from their homeports in the Atlantic and the Pacific to a central location in the United States. The Boeing 707-based E-6A Hermes (later changed names to Mercury) could fly to either coast and the Gulf of Mexico in just a few hours.

The squadrons began a No-Stand-Down move to Tinker AFB, OK in early 1992, followed by the official organization of Strategic Communications Wing One (STRATCOMMWING One) in May of 1992. The first enhanced E-6B was delivered in 1997 to VQ-3 and within three years in 2000, the Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 7 "Roughnecks" were established as a fleet replacement squadron for the Mercury.

The crews of the USN perform their Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) mission and also perform the USAF's Looking Glass mission with USAF crew. Evaluations are already underway to move the TACAMO mission to the EC-130J platform, but little is said about how the USAF will assume or change the Looking Glass mission.

TACAMO is the mission where the E-6B crew convey instructions from the National Command Authority to fleet ballistic missile submarines that are underway. The aircraft is equipped with two Very Low Frequency (VLF) antennas that are towed below the aircraft, one out of the rear of the aircraft and another out of the ventral, aft section of the aircraft through a special door. The orange drogue used to control the antenna through drag is visible out of the tail cone of the aircraft.

The Looking Glass mission assumed by the E-6B provides command and control of United States nuclear forces, including the ability to remotely control Minuteman ICBMs through the Airborne Launch Control System.

Here, E-6B arrives back at Tinker on one of the daily operational missions with severe storms threatening the South sides of the Oklahoma City metro area. This E-6B has yet to be upgraded to the new Block II variant and only has a single dorsal fairing, versus Block II that has two dorsal fairings and two ventral.





Proud Heritage – Navy and Boeing



First and Last 707
September 30, 1991

Dash 8

E-6



COMPARISON			
	707 Dash 80	E-6 Mercury	Delta %
Built	1954	1969	
Span (feet)	130	148	14
Length	128	153	19.5
Wing Area (sq ft)	2,402	2,892	20
ZFW (lbs)	170,000	185,000	9.4
Cruise (mph)	550	600	9
Range (miles)	3,530	6,600	87
Engine Power (lbs of thrust)	10,000	24,000	140



E-6 Prototype Airplane Rollout

December 18, 1986

TACAMO was conceived in 1962 as an expedient interim solution for survivable communications to fleet ballistic missile submarines (SSBN). This TACAMO concept exploited existing very low frequency (VLF) communications technology by placing high powered VLF transmitting equipment in an airborne platform, the EC-130.

The mobility of the airborne platform provides a high degree of survivability not possible with fixed VLF transmitting sites that provide normal communications to SSBNs. TACAMO was originally considered an interim system to be replaced by a hardened, extremely low frequency (ELF) system then being developed. For a number of reasons, survivable ELF did not prove practical, although a peacetime version of ELF is now becoming operational.

Since 1962, the EC-130 version of TACAMO has evolved through a series of technology improvements as the result of changing operational requirements. The need for higher power VLF equipment and the addition of systems such as satellite communications put increasing loads on the EC-130 aircraft that gradually eroded its operational mission capabilities. Meanwhile, the Trident class SSBN's was changing mission requirements because of its greatly expanded patrol area capabilities.

By 1976, there was growing concern about the future of TACAMO and how it might be further improved to keep pace with operational requirements. A series of studies identified an ECX concept as the most cost-effective solution for upgrading the TACAMO system. ECX was a generic term for a much more capable airborne platform employing the already developed TACAMO communications equipment.

In 1982, Naval Air Systems Command released an RFP for ECX that led to the award of a contract to Boeing in 1983. That contract calls for the development and production of 13 E-6A aircraft outfitted with upgraded TACAMO communications equipment. These aircraft incorporate many nuclear hardened and other survivability features previously developed for E-3 and E-4 type aircraft.

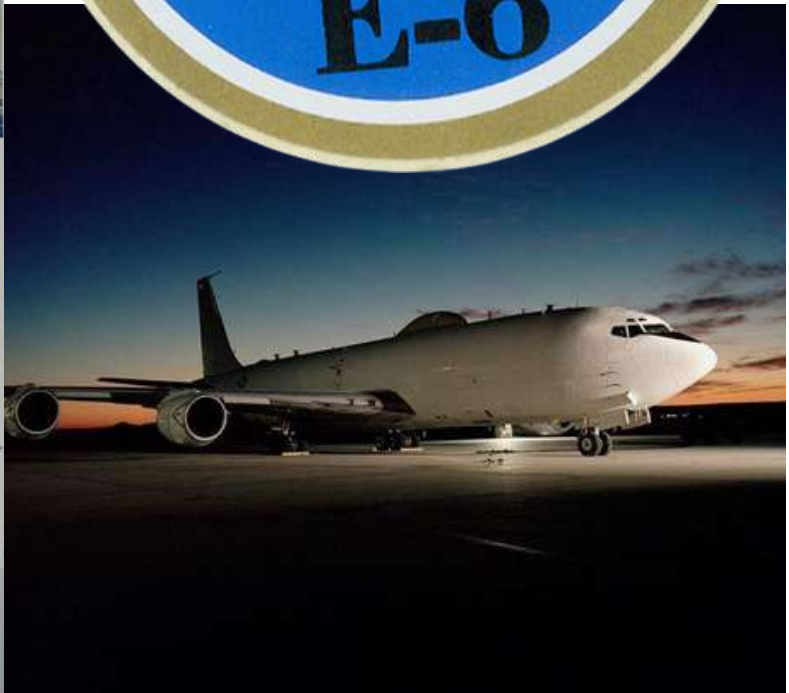
Following rollout of the production prototype and subsequent completion of equipment installation, flight testing will start in June 1987. In late 1988 deliveries will start to the Pacific Squadron (VQ-3), followed by those to the Atlantic Squadron (VQ-4), with final delivery being made in late 1990.

In April 1986, Secretary of the Navy John Lehman announced the E-6A was officially named TACAMO. This name is appropriate because the E-6A program is to be a worthy successor to the EC-130 TACAMO, which has served this country well.

As the U.S. Navy marks the 75th year of naval aviation, The Boeing Company can take pride in the role we have played in that history. The Boeing Navy aviation tradition dates back to 1917, the year the Navy bought a derivative of the first Boeing airplane, the B-1W. That first order was for two Model C4 from Pacific Aero Products Company, renamed Boeing Airplane Company a short time later. The purchase turned into a production contract for 50 Navy seaplane trainers—the first large order for Bill Boeing and his fledgling company.

Cooperation between the Navy and Boeing remained strong as the company produced a wide variety of naval aircraft, including the PB-1 Flying Fortress of 1925, the highly successful B-24 fighter of the early 1940s, and the advanced V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor currently being developed by Vertel and Bell Helicopter Textron.

Today, rollout of the E-6A TACAMO reaffirms the Boeing commitment to successful service to the Navy. Program manager Ken Russell cites a tradition of cooperation: *From the beginning, I have been impressed by the extreme professionalism and total dedication of Navy management. We hope the E-6 program will be seen as the continuation of a long relationship with the Navy and a sign that Boeing is here to serve the Navy in every aviation requirement.*





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS WING ONE COMMISSIONED 29 MAY 1992



Timeline

- **1979 - 1983 – E-6A Procurement Analysis and Decision**
- **1984 - 1985 – Mid-CONUS Basing Analysis**
- **1985 - 1987 – Site Surveys and Choice of Tinker as Mid-CONUS Location**
- **1986 - 1988 – STRATWING Proposal and Decision Process**
- **1987 - 1989 – Consideration of Alternatives, Political Activity, Final Decision**
- **1990 - 1992 – Construction of TACAMO Facilities and Wing Standup**
- **1992 - 1993 – Relocation of VQ-3 and VQ-4 to Tinker with Trainers**

Setting The Stage

- **Strategic/Acquisition Environment – Mirrored Today**

1979	Today
Heightened Nuclear Threat – Cold War	Heightened Nuclear Threat – Rogue States
ICBM Upgrades and Retirements	Nuclear Weapon Upgrades
New Strategic Bombers – B-1/B-2	New Strategic Bomber – B-21
New SSBN's – OHIO Launched 1979	New SSBN's in Design
Strategic C3 Studies	TACAMO AoA Soon

- **1978 – 80 'Airborne VLF Replacement Study'**
 - Analyzed many alternatives – Expanded VLF, ELF, Blue-Green Laser, Sono Bouys, Improved TACAMO (EC-X)- Finally...EC-X Recommended
- **EC-X (E-6A) Approved by Navy 1980 and OSD 1983**
- **Key Take-away for Tinker Discussion – E-6A Procurement and Inventory Analysis Utilized Coastal Basing Scenarios**

Site Surveys 1985-86

- **Alert Sites – West Coast**
 - Dec 1985 – NAS Moffett, McClellan AFB, NAS Lemoore, March AFB
 - Jan 1986 – Fairchild AFB, NAS Whidbey Is, McChord AFB, Travis AFB, Beale AFB, Castle AFB
 - Travis Selected
- **MOB – Mid-CONUS**
 - 21 Apr – 5 May 1986 – Little Rock AFB, Whiteman AFB, Blytheville AFB, Ellsworth AFB, Dyess AFB, Offutt AFB. **LRAFB Recommended.**
 - 17-20 Nov 1986 – Tinker AFB
 - Tinker AFB Ultimately Selected – But Wasn't Easy!
- **Jun 1986 – "Personal For" Operational Assessment to SECNAV**

1986-88 Tinker Decision Process

- **E-6 overshadows basing decision**
- **Congressional leaders influence**
- **E-6 - KC-135R - E-3 comparisons**
- **Hawaii, Maryland dispute claims**
- **OK claims E-3 and E-6 – "80% common"**
- **Depot maint – Mid-CONUS safety**
- **USAF backs out of HPTS program**
- **E-6 Barbers hangar design**



1989-90 Final Decisions

- **Allegations of Congressional deals**
- **NAVAIR site survey determines facts**
 - "Camp Jackson" – buy the junkyard
 - Build campus – add "Navy" gate on 59th St
 - \$100M bill offset by depot savings and safety
- **GAO completed review of decisions**
- **Senator Inouye summons PMA Ernie Lewis**
- **SECNAV James Webb approves Tinker**
- **AIRPAC given the lead to plan/execute**

1990-92 Navy Det OKC

- **Strategic Communications Support Unit**
- **Members**
 - CDR Mark Herkert OIC
 - CDR Norm Tindall Tinker Liaison Officer
 - CW04 Dennis Carrel
 - AKCS(AW) John Bukhouse
 - ATC (AW) Benjamin Corson
 - AMSC (AW) Greg Garcia
 - AK1 Monica Kraft
 - Mrs. Lisa Gawith



- **Strategic Communications Support Unit**
- **MGen Joe Spires unannounced "walk in visit"**
- **CAPT Riddle meets MGEN Spires**
- **USSTRATCOM chop the day after SCW-1 was formally Commissioned**
- **First year of BRAC**
- **MWC founder W. P. "Bill Atkinson -Lake Mercury**
- **Two barracks built- Navy Congressional MoH**
- **Telephone switch for South Base**
- **Team Tinker – Joint for all but Ed Services**



Bottom Line

- **President Reagan's #1 Priority- NC3 – like CNO today**
- **Depot support – sole source to Tinker ALC- not Navy**
- **Survivability of remaining NC3 Thin Line assets**
- **Congress – GAO – Submarine community (OPNAV) agreed**
- **Key players- all TACAMO folks at HQs and talking**
- **Welcoming spirit of Oklahoma communities**
- **Once unpopular idea became great Homeport**
- **NAS OKC**

History by Vern Lochausen, President Emeritus/Historian/Life Member & TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee

Collins Aerospace Book



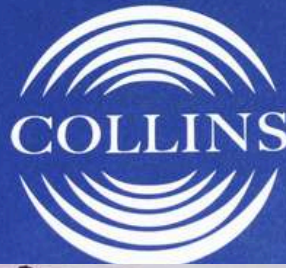
In 2023, Collins created a book about the technical overview of the TACAMO communications system. Go to <https://shorturl.at/z2Jxm> or click link below

<https://shorturl.at/z2Jxm>

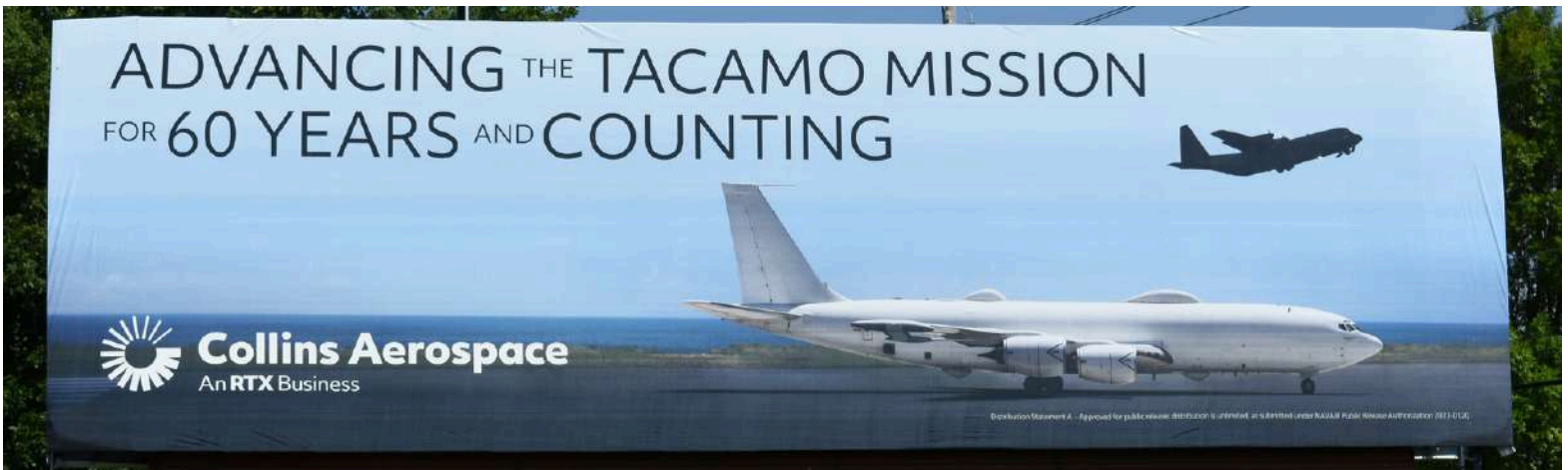


TACAMO

TAKE CHARGE AND MOVE OUT



SEEN IN LEXINGTON PARK, MD





62 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE FUTURE



"Take Charge and Move Out" - TACAMO. The acronym was coined in 1962. The first aircraft modified for testing was a Lockheed KC-130 Hercules which in 1963 was fitted with a VLF transmitter and trailing wire antenna to test communications with the fleet ballistic missile submarines. The Naval Air Development Center developed the technique of "stalling" the trailing antenna to achieve the verticality required for transmission propagation.

The first two squadrons were established in 1968: VQ-4 initially operated from Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland and VQ-3 was initially formed at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii before moving to Naval Air Station Agana, Guam. TACAMO consisted of up to 22 Lockheed EC-130Q aircraft equipped with VLF transmitters using long trailing wire antennas. By 1974, TACAMO incorporated a 200 kW transmitter and dual antennas. The aircraft were upgraded to the E-6 Mercury beginning in 1989, and the E-6A was upgraded to the dual-role E-6B beginning in 1997. The E-6 aircraft is based on the Boeing 707. The wings were redesigned to meet new wing-loading characteristics, the tail was redesigned after the failure of the vertical stabilizer during flight tests, and the landing gear was modified to handle the added weight. Larger fuel tanks were installed and the fuselage was extensively modified to accommodate the 31 plus antennas, including the trailing wire antennas and reel assemblies. Coincident with the upgrade to the E-6B, the TACAMO aircraft - with the addition of an Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) - took over the EC-135 Looking Glass mission formerly conducted by the USAF 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, Nebraska.

Today, E-6B aircraft are always on alert at Travis AFB, Offutt AFB, NAS Patuxent River, and other locations. Additionally, the fleet of 16 E-6Bs are continuously being modernized, currently completing the transition to the Block I standard, incorporating new communication capabilities and a modernized mission architecture. Block II modifications are starting, bringing even more capabilities to the mighty Mercury and ensuring the President maintains survivable, reliable, and endurable command and control of the country's nuclear forces. At the heart of our capabilities are the Sailors who support, maintain, and execute this critical mission 24/7/365. As they have done for the past 62 years, TACAMO Sailors will continue to:

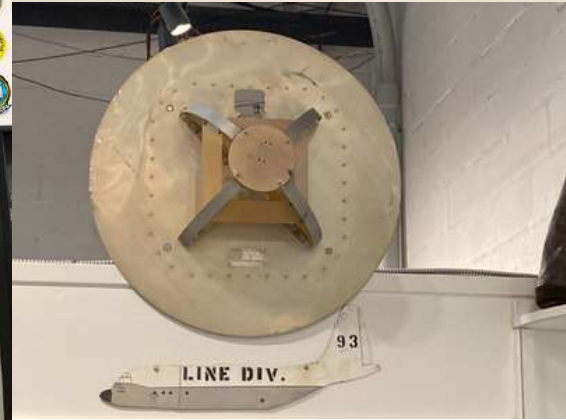
Take Charge And Move Out!



Did you know that the Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River is in charge of all development, manufacturing, test and evaluation (both flight and ground tests), and follow-on logistic support for the TACAMO mission world-wide?

Patuxent River NAS is the home to one of the original National strategic communications squadrons that operate from several locations in the United States to provide national command authority connectivity between the Pentagon and all of our deployed nuclear submarines without them having to come up to the surface. The 'Take Charge and Move Out' TACAMO mission was originally conceived as a way to maintain communications on a 365 day/year, 24 hours a day basis.

More information can be found at <https://www.paxmuseum.com/tacamo> or by going to the museum in Lexington Park MD.



Photos Above:

Top: Aircrew wings mosaic: A gift from RMCS (Ret.) Lynwood Zepic. Lyn was a founding member of the TCVA Board of Directors and passed away in 2020.

Left: Buff Crowell's Pavillion Plaque: A gift from Katy Crowell. In commemoration of naming the Solomon's Recreation Center's Pavilion. Bill "Buff" Crowell was a co-founder of the TACAMO Survivors Association, Predecessor of TCVA and promoter of the TACAMO community. **Right:** Satellite antenna: one of 5 identical UHF (satellite frequency) antennas from a TIPII C-130. Arranged in an array where 3 were on the left wing and 2 on the right. Enclosed in fiberglass pods to protect them from the elements of flight and weather.

Right: The antennas were arranged facing in four 90 degree quadrants, horizontally and one facing up. This arrangement allowed for complete satellite coverage regardless of the airplane's position. This ensured positive reception of the satellite's signal and messages.

Volunteers Needed: TACAMO Docent in TACAMO Room of Pax River Museum

Responsibilities: As a museum docent will serve as a tour guide and offer TACAMO education to the public, including assisting at special events and programs in the TACAMO Room.

Requirements

- Knowledge TACAMO History
- Experience in customer service
- Able to provide information to capture children's attention
- Time spent doing volunteer job
- Available for Pax Museum Events
- Flexible schedule to special tours

Volunteers needed

[Email TCVA to Volunteer](mailto:TCVA@volunteer.com)

Spouses Display

TCVA is creating a display for TACAMO Spouses and are looking for small items to display. If you have something to donate, email Cheryl at tacamocommunity@gmail.com with your donation item details



Spouses Display Items Wanted

TACAMO Family

Silver Spokes Cycle 110 miles in 3 States



Submitted by Dan Skane: “The weekend I had an amazing experience riding the Face of America Gettysburg Challenge sponsored by World Team. The ride honored our military — veterans and active duty, both disabled and able-bodied — and celebrated the American Spirit by bringing together adaptive and able-body athletes. Nearly 400 riders started at Arlington National Cemetery, traveled 110 miles in 2 days, and crossed 3 states, ending our ride at the Gettysburg National Battlefield.

I was inspired by the many adaptive athletes I got to meet along the ride and I had so much fun riding with my awesome Silver Spokes teammates Tim Matthews, Tim Goodwin, Bill Okoniewski, Drew Buchness, Tom Smolko, Erin Garrett-Glaspell, Tim Barnes and Jay Gallamore. The Silver Spokes raised a combined \$23,800, and the combined total from all teams was over \$800,000!

Thank you to my generous sponsors - your contributions will make a difference in the lives of those who participate in the many programs supported by World Team. I can't wait to do this again next year.”



Bill Okoniewski, Dan Skane, Jay Gallamore

“One of the best parts of this past weekend was spending it with two of my best friends. Almost 25 years gents! One of these days we'll convince Jay to write a book with all of his one-liners and jokes. I'm fortunate to have such great men, and great friends, in my life. Looking forward to more adventures ahead!” Dan Skane



World T.E.A.M. in the annual Face of America cycling challenge to Gettysburg's historic Civil War battlefields participating athletes pedal from the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia north through Maryland to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The ride honors our military — veterans and active duty, both disabled and able-bodied — and celebrates the American Spirit.

Cyclists travel 110 miles in two days, with an overnight stay in Frederick, Maryland. The route is fully supported with manned rest stops every ten to 12 miles, SAG wagons, skilled ride marshals, a moto team and mechanical support.

HELP IDENTIFYING THIS TACAMO VETERAN

John Alger met this veteran at the Orlando Airshow. The veteran approached Alger asking, “When were you in VQ-3”. The veteran said he was in the squadron when Crew-4 disappeared off Midway. He also shared, that he was a CMC and he lives in Orlando. Unknown if he was CMC while in VQ-3 or retired as CMC. Possible first name John - Alger didn't catch the last name.



Email TCVA with information



TACAMO Veteran & John Alger

Meet
CAPTAIN
JANEEN IGOU,
USN (RET)



TACAMO
COMMUNITY

I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO
“SPOTLIGHT A SHIPMATE”
John Keilty “Irish”

Two of the main reasons we enjoyed our time in TACAMO were the friendships and experiences we shared. We must never lose sight of what an honor it was to serve in TACAMO

SUBMIT YOUR
SPOTLIGHT A SHIPMATE TO
TACAMOCOMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM

SPOTLIGHT A SHIPMATE

Let's take a flight back in time to 1980....

Many of us will never forget August 1980, 44 years ago, when we were flying the TACAMO mission out of Guam. We had a couple of EC-130s out on the ramp, a couple of F models for training, and we were getting ready to get a full line of brand-new Hercs. All in anticipation of Continuous Airborne Operations plus we were getting ready to homeport change to Hawaii. It was a busy time. But the best part of that busy time and an event that was of great importance in VQ-3's history was that TACAMOPAC'S FIRST FEMALE PILOT reported for duty. Her name was Janeen Igou and, in an instant, every White Hat, every Chief, and every Officer became better because this young Officer was in our squadron. When Lt. Igou checked aboard we were all so impressed. This lady could fly, she could lead, she could motivate and she could inspire. Janeen was our perfect teammate. Janeen took over Crew 2 from me and I was so excited for TACAMOPAC'S first female Crew holding MC/AC. Donnie Woods, Gil Salas, Rey Sanchez, John Alger, Mike Neri, Stu Hinrichs and Frankie Williams and many others remember that day. A great Navy Day!

Janeen was a “leader by example” and was kind and treated us all with dignity and respect. She was an exceptional Naval Aviator. I remember Janeen had the Reel Ops, Line, and the Electricians Shop, and those Sailors absolutely loved her. The Lt. rolled up her sleeves and immediately got to work knowing personally the families and issues those hard-working Sailors faced. Janeen learned how to fly and fight the airplane and many of us marveled at her skills, talents, professionalism, and knowledge. I am telling you, many of you were there-It just didn't get any better than Janeen Igou. A powerhouse and superstar Officer and Aviator and an even better person.

Janeen spent her next couple of tours at CINCPACFLT and then flying with the USPACOM ABNCP before

coming back to TACAMO for her DH tour where she transitioned from the HERC to the MERC.

Janeen was the first TACAMO FEMALE PILOT TO COMMAND A VT SQUADRON flying T-34s. Those young Student Naval Aviators who learned to fly in her command also learned leadership, character, toughness, discipline and honor from one of the best.

Janeen then spent time at Cheyenne Mountain, U.S. Space Command and NORAD before retiring as a Captain after 25 years.

Those of us who were honored to fly and serve with Janeen Igou will never forget her and always be thankful. She truly was a trailblazer for women in Naval Aviation and in TACAMO. We were a better warfighting community and Navy because Janeen was our leader, warfighter, teacher, mentor and friend.

As we look back on those long and rewarding days of ramping up ops and planning a homeport change from Guam to Hawaii, we were all so truly blessed to have Janeen on our crew and in our Ready Room, as our wingman and shipmate.

Janeen now lives in Colorado with her husband Don having raised a “Brady Bunch” of 5 kids. Daughter Heather graduated from the Air Force Academy and became a Search and Rescue PAVEHAWK Pilot and son Michael joined the Marines for 6 years and is now a Dentist. Janeen has 7 soon to be 8 grandkids.

Janeen also volunteers at Cheyenne Mountain State Park and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.



TACAMO Family



Katrina Armiger, daughter of Claude Alvin Dowling My father Claude Alvin Dowling was part of VQ4 Patuxent river, MD I'm hoping to find people who knew him. He died in 2000 when I was 17.



Came across these today (Hats in photo), I'm sure that was my father's way of saying hello. Anyone able to date them? Thinking 1970's or 1980's. I've attempted to search online for information about what exactly my father did, I don't know much at all... since he passed when I was a teenager. I have a ton of 8x10 photos of him with groups of people in front of planes. Is there somewhere I can learn more in depth details about my father's career?



Micheal Mooney Reported: Got to meet up with Mike Walbridge tonight. Me and him served in VQ-4 on the herc's 89-91, we finally reunited due to his wife. Been around 33yrs since we last talked or saw each other! Needless to say, memories were shared with our wife's. At least now they know we wasn't lying! Lol

Blair Preston Posted: My children never knew what to think His jacket was his dad's, Ed Preston's. "It's the coolest scruffy old thing I own. It's in retirement now after I added 6,000 more hours of flight time to it."



Recall Bill Addendum



Photo: Blair with a snake. Son of Ed Preston (upper right), the first CO of VQ-3 in Guam

It was '81. Jim Smitchger setup the shot for the Tester, Navy Times, Approach Magazine and then used it for the Officer Recall Bill cover art.



TACAMO Family

Old Timer's "Meet and Greet"



The TACAMO Old Timer's "Meet and greet" - "Grip and grin" Fly In on 3 May at the Tinker Club was a great success. The Fleet showed in full force as did Old Timers from the TACAMO Guam, Hawaii, Pax River and of course Tinker Eras.

In a new tradition, the TACAMO Old Timers presented Commodore Windeler with "The TACAMO EAGLE" in appreciation and recognition of his leadership of this indomitable TACAMO War fighting Force. Old Timers 20 years ago Shadow 1 (Cdr" Rocket " Maser) and Shadow 2 (Gary " Combat" Foster) pictured with present day Skipper Kirby "Doogie" Williams, and XO Cody "Queen" Scarborough.



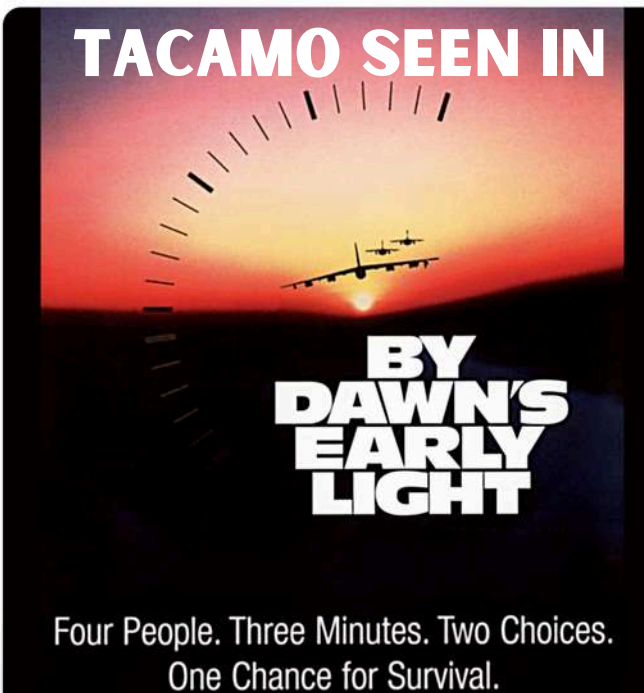
"Irish" Continues the Buff Tradition

Note to Katy: "One of the things that Buff liked to do when he was in town was get together some old timers and hang out with the Fleet guys. Just a small gathering to share sea stories, comradery, and respect for our community and profession. Well you will be happy to know that we took that idea and for two years now we have had highly successful annual Old Timer - Fleet meet and greet, grip and grin Fly In at the Tinker Club. Many old warfighters and many present-day warfighters get together just like Buff used to get us together to throw down a brew and brew new friendships." John "Irish" Keilty

TACAMO Community Veterans Assn

Vern Lochausen · about an hour ago

We are in the end of this movie.



36th Anniversary



On April 15, 1988, VQ-3 Detachment Travis was stood up as the first permanent TACAMO Alert Facility and Forward Operating Base.

TACAMO Family

TACAMOPAC Crew 4



Shared by Timothy Mura, brother of Dennis Mura, crewmember of TACAMOPAC Crew 4

I am writing this post to apologize to my family and friends for being so introverted/reclusive all these years. The anniversary of my brother's plane crash is this coming June 21st, it has been 47 years. I am very grateful and appreciate my wife and children for standing by me and supporting me every June when I start reminiscing about my brother, Dennis. I have learned to focus on all of the good times I had with my brother instead of what happened that day.

I thank TCVA and the VQ3 Squadron for keeping these sixteen men's memories alive. When I went to the TCVA reunion in Oklahoma City and knelt next to the C130 located there, it was the first time remember crying over his death. It started a healing process that I am still working on today and this post is part of it. I hope to make it back there again to visit the Memorial. When I was at Tinker, I came to the realization that there wasn't only sixteen families that were affected, there was also a seventeenth family affected and that was the VQ-3 Navy family. After talking to some the people he served with, I realized that they were also affected much the same way as I was. Please Pray for all the seventeen families that were affected by this terrible tragedy, I believe many of them are still going through similar things.

I would like to close by saying that I am very grateful to the current VQ3 Squadron personnel for taking such good care of the Memorial. It really means a lot to my family and myself. If you haven't watched this video I encourage you to do so. It is a wonderful tribute to the sixteen men that lost their lives that day. <https://shorturl.at/NHoLX>



Video



Left:
Dennis Mura,
TACAMOPAC
Crew 4
Right:
Tim Mura,
brother of Dennis



2015 Facebook Post

Vern Lochausen is with LaRue Shepard and Kristofer Jarboe. June 20, 2015 · 🌐
Mission Completed in OKC and finally back home again, the best place to be.

2024 Facebook Post

Vern Lochausen Admin All-star contributor · a day ago · 🌐
We have come full circle now in further honors to TACAMOPAC CREW 4. So glad we have made this a priority and now a scholarship for Aubrey Russell 3rd.

Greetings to you on this day, Tuesday, June 20th. I just received your TACAMO Memorial Day-June 21st email. I will put my flags up tomorrow. It brings back so many memories---great, sad, and life changing for which I will be forever grateful on many fronts.

Thanks to you both and TACAMO I am at peace with myself and the world with respect to Crew 4. I will never forget them and will cherish my time with them and TACAMO always. Nowadays I think of them and that event, as sad as it was and continues to be, as a rebirth of sorts for many souls, mine included.

Recently the VA finally told me that I do have PTSD from many events and I am relieved at that. I can press forward with a light heart and still remain ever vigilant. Thanks for your help!!

Today, June 21, my thoughts are with Crew 4 and their families, just as they have been every year for the past 47 years. These past 7 years it has been easier to deal with this tragedy, thanks to you both and the TACAMO family. Thanks for your support!



On June 21, 1977, from touchdown at Wake Island to takeoff, John "Admiral" Nelson was with the crew of TACAMOPAC Crew 4. He enjoyed the stories the crew shared with him. The memory of the crew has always been with him and a part of his life.



DATES: NOVEMBER 7 TO 12

TACAMO FAMILY 2025 REUNION



Tentative Schedule - Updated June, 2024

- **FRI NOV 7:** *Registration & Evening Welcome Buffet Meal*
- **SAT NOV 8:** *Morning Quarters: Members Meeting/ Afternoon at Truist Field, Ballpark Tour/ Evening outing at The Battery: Shop, Play, and /or a show at Roxy Theatre or Dine Out*
- **SUN NOV 9:** *Morning TACAMO Hall of Fame Reception/ Afternoon On-your-own or Hospitality Room Social time/ Flight Suit Liberty in Hotel Bar*
- **MON NOV 10:** *Lockheed-Martin Tour & possible Time in Herc Simulator/ Evening Gathering in Hotel Bar*
- **TUES NOV 11:** *TACAMO Attendees may walk in the Veterans Day Parade/PLE Outing Dinner at 57th Fighter Group*



TACAMO Family

Blue's #2, Son of TACAMO Veteran



Son of TACAMO Veteran & VMI Alumni Association

A new documentary about the U.S. Navy Blue Angels premiered last month, featuring VMI's own U.S. Navy Lt.

Cmdr. Jack Keilty '10! Keilty joined the Blue Angels in September 2023 and flies No. 2, right wing. He has accumulated more than 2,300 flight hours and 484 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include a Strike Flight Air Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, Two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various other unit and personal awards.

The film, "The Blue Angels," gives viewers an inside look into what it means to be a part of the U.S. Navy's elite flight demonstration squadron, including the selection process and intense training that the pilots endure.

"The Blue Angels" is currently playing in IMAX theaters and streaming on Prime Video. Read more and watch the official trailer here: <https://www.imax.com/movie/blue-angels>



Families attend Blue Angel Airshows



Shared by Matt Titus

"We had an awesome time cheering on Blue Angel #2 and the team yesterday in La Crosse at Deke Slayton Airfest. Jack sought me out on the TR when we were off the coast of San Diego training for our 2017-18 5th fleet deployment in support of operations Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel.

As a basically no-name E4 walking into an active ready room full of Naval Aviators, I was a little out of place. LT came out of the back office and shook my hand, and I got hand shakes from quite a few pilots in the room that day. I was always extremely grateful of Jack for taking the time out of his day to chat with me. I know the CS-61 guys were all grateful to be able to work on the gear that our air controllers and pilots depended on to get on deck and get us all home safe.

Seeing Jack fly and getting to show the whole world the power and professionalism of Naval Aviation was just a reminder of the camaraderie and professionalism he showed me that day.

Thanks to the Keilty's for having us out, and always being great role models and stewards of the Navy and the country 🇺🇸 Fly Navy!"



Shared by John Alger at Orlando Airshow April 2024!

"Joan and I went with our son Craig Alger and our realtor Jennifer Matacale Daytona Beach and Todd Matacale. A few of the photos, more later (200+ so some not so good, naturally - got to sift through them). The son of my former VQ-3 plane commander, John Keilty, is flying the #2 position with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. Sorry we couldn't hang after the show "Ricco". I think Arizona had a great (but hot) time!"



TACAMO Families Attend Blue Angel Airshows



Lisa George Pohl shared:

BUCKET LIST ITEM

For years I've told Mr Fish somehow, someday I wanted a picture with the Blue Angels. On April 15th, a group of TACAMO pilots planned a reunion in Ft Worth to attend the air show. The piece de resistance, Blue Angel pilot #2 (right wing) LTCDR Jack "Rico" Keilty happens to be the son of the Best Man in our wedding! It was worth the 30-year wait! Kim Keilty I missed you this wknd but I definitely had that "proud mama" feeling for you! Zoom in and see the joy on my face! My cup runneth over!

"Lisa, great weekend. Being with you and Fish and Pud and all those TACAMO Veteran Warfighters reunited again, was so inspiring. So many great memories of years gone by serving in Naval Aviation. And I love the pic with the whole group and Rico arm around Mr Fish." John "Irish" Keilty



Submitted by John Keilty:

Barbers Point Hawaii got together in an epic weekend in Fort Worth for the Blue Angel Airshow. These guys all worked for me when I was OPSO in VQ3. Couple years ago they all met in OKC to celebrate my birthday. I could not be here as I had to go back east for a Family Emergency. Last year we got together again for my birthday. Each year it grew and this year we decided to do it in Ft Worth in conjunction with Jack's Airshow and we invited the wives. We had 65 people. So much fun recalling those days some 35 years ago when we were together as a great team. Now all of us have raised our families, had careers in the Airlines and other professions but most of all we all shared the honor and privilege to serve in TACAMO and Naval Aviation.

Our spouses made this reunion so special and of course watching Rico fly was awesome.



Photos from the Fort Worth for the Blue Angel Airshow

Share your Blue Angles Mini-Reunion Pics with TCVA
Email pics & story to tcva.reunions@gmail.com

Left: Commodore Gerry Geletzke and wife Cindy, Skipper Norb Tornes and wife Linda joined up with Irish and Kim Keilty for the Blue Angels Airshow in Traverse City Michigan. Nice job Rico, Irish Keilty



TACAMO Family

Gatherings @ Blue Angels Show



Left to Right Pilots: #1 is Navy Commander Alexander Armatas, who is the Squadron Commander, #2 is Navy Lieutenant Commander Jack Keilty, #3 is Navy Lieutenant Wes Perkins, #4 is Navy Lieutenant Commander Amanda Lee (the first female Blue Angels pilot), #5 is Navy Lieutenant Commander Griffin Stangel, and #6 is Navy Commander Thomas Zimmerman



2025

Everyone loves the Blue Angels! Now, there is even more excitement, with U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jack Keilty, son of John "Irish" and Kim Keilty, flying the Number 2 aircraft.

TACAMO Veterans are getting together to enjoy the air shows. TCVA met with different Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) representatives at the recent Military Reunion Planners Summit. Go to the link below to get more information and help to plan a gathering:

<https://www.tacamo.org/bluesairshows>

Below, highlighted in **RED**, are CVB representatives to help you with reduced hotel room rates for out-of-town guests and provide recommendations for a meal together. The **BLUE** are organized mini-reunion. Go to <https://www.tacamo.org/bluesairshows> to get more information



2024

- August**
- 3 · 4 | Seattle, WA | Boeing Seafair Air Show
- 10 · 11 | Chicago, IL | Chicago Air and Water Show
- 17 · 18 | Colorado Springs, CO | Pikes Peak Air Show
- 24 · 25 | Wichita, KS | Frontiers In Flight Air Show
- 31 | Cleveland, OH | Cleveland National Air Show
- September**
- 1 · 2 | Cleveland, OH | Cleveland National Air Show
- 14 · 15 | Owensboro, KY | Owensboro Air Show
- 21 · 22 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show
- 28 · 29 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show
- October**
- 5 · 6 | Reno, NV | National Championship Air Races & Air Show
- 12 · 13 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
- 19 · 20 | NAS Jacksonville, FL | NAS Jacksonville Air Show
- 26 · 27 | Houston, TX | Wings Over Houston Air Show
- November**
- 1 · 2 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show

- March**
- 15 NAF El Centro, CA | NAF El Centro Festival of Flight
- 22 · 23 | Sacramento, CA | California Capitol Air Show
- 29 · 30 | NAS Key West, FL | NAS Key West Southernmost Air Spectacular
- April**
- 5 · 6 | Lakeland, FL | Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo
- 12 · 13 | MCAS Beaufort, SC | MCAS Beaufort Air Show
- 26 · 27 | Augusta, GA | Augusta Air Show
- May**
- 3 · 4 | NAS Corpus Christi, TX | NAS Corpus Christi Air Show
- 10 · 11 | Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL | Fort Lauderdale Air Show
- 17 · 18 | Martinsburg, WV | West Virginia's Greatest Air Show
- 21 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show
- 23 | U.S. Naval Academy Graduation Flyover
- 24 · 25 | Middletown, PA | Middletown Air Show
- June**
- 7 · 8 | Smyrna, TN | The Great Tennessee Air Show
- 14 · 15 | Ocean City, MD | O.C. Air Show
- 21 · 22 | Belleville, MI | Belleville Air Show
- 28 · 29 | Eau Claire, WI | Chippewa Valley Air Show
- July**
- 5 · 6 | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo
- 12 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show
- 19 · 20 | Milwaukee, WI | Milwaukee Air and Water Show
- August**
- 2 · 3 | Seattle, WA | Boeing Seafair Air Show
- 9 · 10 | MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI | Kaneohe Bay Air Show
- 16 · 17 | Twin Falls, ID | Twin Falls Air Show
- 23 · 24 | Columbus, OH | Columbus Air Show
- 30 · 31 | Branson, MO | Branson Wings of Pride Air Show
- September**
- 6 · 7 | Portsmouth, NH | Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show
- 20 · 21 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show
- 27 · 28 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show
- October**
- 4 · 5 | Salinas, CA | California International Airshow
- 11 · 12 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
- 18 · 19 | Rome, GA | Wings Over North Georgia
- 25 · 26 | Lake Charles, LA | Chennault International Air Show
- November**
- 1 · 2 | Punta Gorda, FL | Florida International Air Show
- 7 · 8 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Beware of Claim Predators Seeking to Exploit Your Benefits

Numerous Veterans seek assistance in navigating the process of filing VA benefits claims to secure their entitled payments. It is imperative to remain vigilant against "claim predators" - unaccredited entities or individuals who target Veterans' benefits for personal gain.

How to recognize claim predators:

- **Charging Excessive Fees:** Predatory entities impose exorbitant fees or demand a portion of your VA benefits. Refrain from paying any fees for the submission of an initial benefits claim.
- **Making False Assurances:** Exercise caution with individuals promising to expedite the claims process or guarantee a 100% disability benefits evaluation. It is vital to acknowledge that only the VA possesses the authority to determine disability ratings.
- **Imposing Binding Agreements:** No legitimate entity should request payment for submitting an initial claim for VA benefits. Avoid entering into contracts that stipulate remitting a portion of your benefit payment to an unauthorized individual or company in exchange for assistance with your VA claim.

To gain further insights on VA accredited representatives and their supportive role, kindly refer to the following link: <https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/>



Shared by Katy L'Estrange Crowell
(wife of Buff Crowell):
"Located outside the Leonardtown,
MD Post Office."



VA is hosting VetFest events nationwide to inform Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors about the PACT Act and help them access the health care and benefits they've earned. A list of VetFest events near you is at the bottom of this post and will be updated as additional events and details become available.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- **Meet VA representatives:** Talk to VA health care and benefits professionals who can answer your questions about how the PACT Act impacts your eligibility and help you navigate the application process.
 - **Apply for benefits:** Get assistance with filing for PACT Act-related benefits, submitting an intent to file, or enrolling in VA health care.
 - **Toxic exposure screenings:** Receive a screening by VA staff to determine if you may be eligible for benefits due to toxic exposure.
- The PACT Act (Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act) is the largest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in generations. It specifically benefits Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras and were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. PACT Act also extends eligibility to survivors of these exposed Veterans.

Link: <https://shorturl.at/coeFc>

2024 Dates to Remember



Important TACAMO, Military Holidays and Observances

- June 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day – A Day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD.
- July 4 – Independence Day
- July 27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- Aug. 7 – Purple Heart Day
- Sept. 11– Patriot Day – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- Sept. 20 – POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept. 29 – Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day – A Day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.
- **Oct 1 – TACAMO Navy Birthday Ball, 1800-2200, Reed Convention Center, Midwest City**
- Oct. 13 – Navy Birthday
- Oct. 26 – National Day of the Deployed
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
- Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 21 – National Wreaths Across America Day



Search & Connect

TACAMO shipmates, search to connect with shipmates and/or family members.

TCVA has two features to help reconnect:

TCVA will help with your search, see RECONNECT.
SEARCH & CONNECT - List who members are searching for



SEARCH & CONNECT

TCVA is looking for information on the following:

- Gary Waters
- Ron Botich
- Chief Hanlon
- Chief Whalen
- Members of Crew 10 from 1986 - 89
- Nancy Fitzgerald
- Skipper John Shay
- LCDR Gary Gray
- LT PJ Murphy
- General Ensley (Information)
- Fred Niklaus (Information)



Below: This is what happens when you have a retired Navy C-130Q flight engineer who has a wood shop and decides to building something. 36 inches wing span, 9 inches tall, and 31 inches long, made of oak, and weighs 6 LBS. You make a whirly gig. (By Frank Stiner Sr.)



Goodby old friend



Need Transportation or Escort to a TACAMO Reunion?



- Sometimes life situations do not provide us the opportunity to attend a TACAMO reunion. So, ask a family member for the gift of escorting you to a reunion. Your family members will enjoy hearing new stories and learning about TACAMO. TCVA will waive your escort's registration cost.

At 2023 reunion, Ralph Carlson was given the gift of attending the reunion by his son, Scott. He was unable to drive, so his son escorted him. Scott and Ralph were joined at the reunion other family members: TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee, Gerry Greer and wife LaDonia Carlson and many other family members. While Ralph shared stories about his time in TACAMO, family members enjoyed hearing new stories and meeting other TACAMO attendees.

TACAMO Elder Escort Gift Certificate

Good for one (1) escort to attend a TACAMO Reunion with their TACAMO family elderly in need of assistance

To: TACAMO Reunion Attendee

This certificate is good for one (1) person providing transportation for a you to attend a TACAMO Reunion.
Value: Reunion Registration Fee

From:
TACAMO Reunion Committee



NEXT  **TACAMO REUNION!**

**MARIETTA, GA
NOVEMBER 7 TO 12, 2025**



HALE KOA HOTEL

TACAMO REUNION

2027

"TACAMOPAC CREW 4" 50 Year Remembrance



Check out the Tentative Schedule tacamo.org/2027tacamoreunion or use the QR code

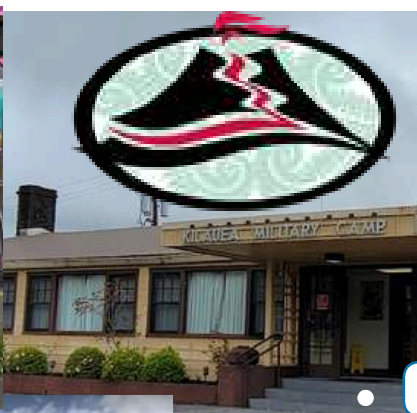
2 Hawaiian Islands Reunion

June 18 to 22 **Oahu**

Big Island June 22 to 26



Hilo Farmer Market



Kilauea Volcano Tour



- Celebrating
 - The lives of TACAMOPAC Crew 4
 - TACAMO Began 65 Years
 - TCVA Began 30 Years
- TACAMO Hall of Fame induction

98 Turtles

Scenic Island Tour

Hilo & Beyond Tour

If you would like to explore the TACAMO Association , you must fill out your time in TACAMO

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Last Name	Maiden Name
<input type="text"/>	Status * <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email address	Duty Status	Family Member related to



Military Service

Squadron *	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Commander Naval Air Forces Pacifi... Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	List the names you served with in this Squadron. Place a comma between names
Squadron	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	List the names you served with in this Squadron. Place a comma between names

Industry Partners

IndustryPartner	<input type="text"/>
Industry Partners	Years worked i.e.1990-2007

Civil Service

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Civil Service	Years worked i.e.1990-2007

TIME IN TACAMO

1961 TACAMO Begins
"Take Charge And Move Out"

Military Service:
Where did your adventure in TACAMO begin?

What **Commands** you were in?

What **Years** were you in each Command?

What **Squadrons** were you in?

Industry Partners:
Where did your adventure in TACAMO begin?

What is the **Name** of the Industry Partner Company?

What **Years** were you in Industry Partner Company?

Civil Service Partners:
Where did your adventure in TACAMO begin?

What is the **Name** of the Civil Service Company?

What **Years** did you work for the Civil Service Partner?

<https://www.tacamo.org/tacamotime>



[tacamo.org/tacamotimelist](https://www.tacamo.org/tacamotimelist)

TACAMO Association

As of November 2023

We recognize our Industry Partners Support



Collins Aerospace



BONEYARD SAFARI



We Thank All Supporters!!

TACAMO Reunions Industry Partners

2013

Southside Seattle with **Boeing** employees who built the Merces
Sponsor: Boeing

2014

Marietta, GA with **Lockheed** to celebrate 50th anniversary since the delivery of first Hercs
Sponsor: Lockheed

2015

Tucson, AZ with **Boneyard Safari** to visit the TACAMO Hercs and collect TACAMO Herc artifacts
Sponsor: Boneyard Safari

2017

OKC with active duty
Sponsor: Boeing, Collins Aerospace LongWave, OKC Navy League Council, Midwest City Chamber of Commerce and Marcum's Nursery and Tree Farm

2022

Patuxent River, MD TACAMO Gallery Grand Opening
Sponsor: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace

2023

OKC with active Duty
Sponsor: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace, Northrop, Navy League OKC Council, LongWave & V2X

2025

Marietta, GA
Sponsor: Lockheed

2027

Oahu, Hawaii
TACAMOPAC Crew 4
50th Year Remembrance




TACAMO Association welcomes our Industry Partners to sponsor and host TACAMO Reunions


TCVA Board of Directors & Committee Members




Mike Vos
Executive Director & TSA/TCVA Founding Member
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee



Dennis Warren "Coach"
President



Tony Barnes
Vice President
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee



Cheryl Vos
Vice President Administration & Reunion/Event Planner
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee




Jim Meppelink
Vice President Awards & Recognition
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



John Alger
Vice President Merchandising & Scholarship Committee
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee



Mike Neri
Vice President Membership & Time in TACAMO




Joe Caruso
Treasurer & Membership
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'




John Burgoon "Mom"
Secretary & Scholarship Committee



Ryan Skaggs
Active Duty Representative



Vern Lochausen
President Emeritus /Historian/ Life Member
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



James Youngblood
Historian Assistant



Cathy Neri
Database Builder




Joan Alger
Reunion Planner Assistant

TSA Founding Members

- President Emeritus - Barry Coyle
 - TACAMO Hall of Fame inductee in 2014
- Vice President Emeritus - Bill "Buff" Crowell
 - 2021 TACAMO Hall of Fame inductee
- Executive Director - Mike Vos
 - Founding member of TSA and TCVA
- Sue Davies
- Franklin Forrest
- Lynwood Zepik
- John Cotter




Tris Crowell
William "Buff" Crowell Scholarship Committee



Jay Galamore
William "Buff" Crowell Scholarship Committee

Former TSA/TCVA Board of Directors Members

- Jim Gallagher Vice President 2005-18
 - 2018 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee
- President Emeritus - Vern Lochausen
 - 2017 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee

Fallen Shipmates

I FLEW

by *Brad Baker*

When the last checklist's run and the bag drag is done,
I'll reminisce on the days I once knew,
I won't remember the oh-three-hundred alerts,
But only that I flew!

I will not remember the crew rest in tents,
Nor recall how cold Arctic winds blew,
And I'll try not to remember the times I got sick,
But only that I flew!

I will never forget when nature became angry,
To challenge my intrepid crew,
I'll always remember the fear I felt,
And the pride in knowing I flew.

I'll remember the sights my mortal eyes saw,
All colored in multiple hues,
Those beautiful lights on cold winter lights,
Seen only by those who flew.



God was extremely good to me,
He let me touch his face,
He saw my crew through war and peace,
And blessed us with His grace.

So when I stand at St. Peter's Gate,
And tell him that I'm new,
I know he'll smile and welcome me,
Because he knows
I FLEW!

[LINK: TACAMO FALLEN LIST](#)



TACAMO

Active Duty, Veterans,
Government Civilians, Families,
and Industry Partners